

From: Tucker, Chad
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with the Department of Justice's antitrust case against Microsoft.

As a professional economist, I can state unequivocally that the products manufactured by the Microsoft corporation contribute immensely to my productivity and to the productivity of my coworkers. I use Microsoft software everyday, and the forecasts and reports I produce are much better off as a result. None of the software in competition with Microsoft's Office Suite, and none of the operating systems in competition with Microsoft's Windows, are capable of achieving the results that I must have in order to satisfy my company's clients.

As a professional economist, I can also state unequivocally that the antitrust laws are based upon a profound misunderstanding of the factors that govern the economy. Unless the government grants a monopoly to a corporation, that corporation cannot become a monopoly. Microsoft's large market share is not due to any 'restraint of trade' or anything else of which the DoJ is accusing it, but rather it is due to its superior products. Microsoft sells many copies of its software because consumers of software recognize that its products are worth buying, and for no other reason. The DoJ suit threatens to punish Microsoft for no reason other than because Microsoft excels at giving its customers what they want. Its customers will be hurt to precisely the same extent as Microsoft itself if antitrust action is taken against it.

And, based on my knowledge as a professional economist, I can state unequivocally that the Microsoft antitrust suit is odious in another area: morality. The products produced by Microsoft, and the company itself, are the rightful property of its shareholders and of no one else. The Department of Justice has no right to abrogate the rights of the owners of the Microsoft corporation in demanding that it change its products or be split into separate companies. That the products of a man's mind (in this case, Bill Gates' and Microsoft's programmers' minds) are rightfully his, is not only the very basis of American society; it is the exclusive basis of a just and moral society. The DoJ lawsuit against Microsoft undermines the most fundamental undergirdings of American capitalism, and it is a slap in the face to anyone who has ever produced anything of value.

And thus, as a professional economist, I urge you to reconsider your antitrust case against Microsoft. Don't punish Bill Gates for having created something of great value to the vast majority of computer users;

rather, commend him for a job well done.

Sincerely,

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